NewsRelease

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Briefing set as Hyper-X Flight preparations begin

The first of three unpiloted X-43 vehicles in NASA Langley Research Center's Hyper-X program will soon begin hypersonic flight.

Flying from seven to ten times the speed of sound, using air-breathing scramjet engines instead of traditional rocket power, the smaller, 12-foot-long X-43 could represent a major leap forward in the goal of providing faster, more reliable and less expensive access to space.

The NASA Hyper-X Program's development and testing of the Hyper-X vehicle is conducted jointly by NASA Langley and NASA Dryden Flight Research Center, Edwards, Calif. Langley is NASA's lead center for hypersonic technology development; Dryden will flight test the scramjet in late May or early June.

On Wednesday, April 18, at 1 p.m., EDT, NASA will conduct a press briefing from Dryden featuring Vince Rausch, NASA Langley Hyper-X program manager. Rausch and other project officials will outline plans for upcoming X-43 flights and the Hyper-X program.

The briefing will be carried live on NASA TV with two-way question-and-answer capability for reporters covering the event at the NASA Langley Newsroom. Also at Langley, interested media will have the opportunity to interview senior Hyper-X officials and see a full-scale test model with a working scramjet engine in the 8-Foot High Temperature Tunnel.

The NASA Langley Newsroom is in Building 1202 on North Dryden Street. Reporters will be met at the gate and provided with badges by a representative of the Public Affairs Office.

The news briefing will be carried on NASA Television, which is available on GE-2, transponder 9C, located at 85 degrees West longitude, with vertical polarization. Frequency will be on 3880 MHz, with audio on 6.8 MHz.

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